

Change: *When you're finished changing, you're finished.*—Benjamin Franklin, American statesman

A new face in HED's executive office



Alex Skinner is HED's new executive assistant.

Story and photo by Michelle Cain

If you've come by the District's executive office in recent months, it's almost a given that you've met our new executive assistant, Alex Skinner. Who could miss the blond dynamo that greets everyone with a smile and a jubilant 'hi' as soon as they walk through the double doors? Though he's only been with HED for a short time, Skinner has become a well-known face among us.

"I'm a very people-oriented person," says Skinner.

That much is apparent as soon as you meet him.

"I always go the extra mile for somebody. If someone needs a hand, I give him two. I can't say no," he explains. "If someone needs something I'm always there for them."

Skinner comes to the newly-developed position, a combination of executive officer and human resources manager, from Alamogordo, N.M., where he taught special education classes to sixth, seventh and eighth-graders.

He is originally from Tucson, Ariz., where he enlisted in the army in 1972. His 27-year military career took him to several different places and provided him with a vast array of job experiences in airborne infantry and military intelligence, most recently as the garrison Command Sergeant Major at Fort

Huachuca, Ariz.

After his retirement from the army in 1999, Skinner completed his bachelor of science degree in liberal arts from Excelsior College in New York City. He then began working on a master's degree in vocational rehabilitation from San Diego State University while substitute teaching.

He realized that teaching didn't provide him the challenge that he craved. "I missed the challenge of being back working Department of Defense issues," he said. "I had done that for so many years."

So he applied for his current position, and was selected.

"I wanted a position outside of military intelligence, in a new field. I wanted to try something new," he said. "I wanted something that would be 'out

of the box,' and do something that would be totally different just to see if I could do it and see if I enjoyed it."

So far, he feels he made the right choice.

"I really enjoy this; it's challenging, rewarding, difficult, and there's a learning curve, but I love it!" he said. "I like the long hours."

He added that engineers, especially civil engineers, have always been an inspiration to him, so working with engineers is a pleasure.

Skinner's wife, April, and their daughters, Skyler and Hileigh, are here with him in Hawaii. He also has a grown son and daughter, and is the grandfather of three.

In his spare time, he enjoys snorkeling, reading and traveling. "On weekends, what I like to do is build a stronger relationship with my family," he said.

Even his future plans underscore his commitment to the people he works with.

"My goal is to become the best I can in the position I'm in. I want to continue providing support," he said.

"What I'll do is, I will sacrifice for the overall good versus the one. It isn't that I'm so patriotic that I'm going to give up my life for somebody else's; that isn't the issue. The issue is if I can make the quality of life better for somebody else, why not?"